

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 MCT-01 L-03 CAB-02 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00
PM-05 H-01 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 VO-05
CA-01 /076 R

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NEA/ARN:DREUTHER
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R 300233Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 081637

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, IZ

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: IRAQ AIR FLIGHTS TO US

REF: BAGHDAD 0614

1. THERE IS NO AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE US AND IRAQ. EFFORTS DURING YEARS 1963-66 TO NEGOTIATE SUCH AN AGREEMENT WERE FRUITLESS. PAN AM OPERATED PRIOR TO 1967, WHEN SERVICE TO BAGHDAD WAS SUSPENDED WITH CAB APPROVAL, UNDER A SERIES OF ONE-YEAR PERMITS ISSUED BY IRAQI CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITIES. IRAQI CONDITIONS WERE ONEROUS, PAN AM POSITION WAS DIFFICULT, AND THE LAST YEARS WERE PARTICULARLY TRYING AND UNHAPPY.

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2. DEPT. IS VERY COOL TO IDEA OF IRAQ AIR SERVING US. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY CURRENT PLAN FOR PAN AM TO RESUME SERVICE TO BAGHDAD AND SEE NO AVIATION POLICY JUSTIFICATION FOR GIVING ROUTE RIGHTS TO IRAQ.

3. US AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENTS WITH JORDAN AND SYRIA WHICH EXPIRE DECEMBER 31, 1978, CONTAIN NO PROVISION FOR

ADDITIONAL ARAB PARTNERS. USG WOULD FAVORABLY CONSIDER OTHER SUITABLE PARTNERS BUT IRAQ WOULD NOT BE WELCOME TO APPLY FOR RIGHTS UNDER JORDAN/SYRIA TYPE AGREEMENT FOR REASONS INDICATED PARA 4 BELOW.

4. QUITE ASIDE FROM NORMAL AVIATION CONSIDERATIONS, HOWEVER, DEPT. COULD NOT ACCEPT IRAQI AIRWAYS SERVICE TO US IN VIEW ROLE IRAQ HAS PLAYED IN HARBORING AND SUPPORTING TERRORISTS IN CIVIL AVIATION. US POLICY ON TERRORISM, AS WELL AS STRONG CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES TO TAKE SANCTIONS AGAINST COUNTRIES SUCH AS IRAQ, REQUIRE DEPT. TAKE THIS POSITION.

5. IN VIEW FOREGOING, WE AGREE THAT USINT SHOULD IGNORE IRAQI INITIATIVES, INCLUDING REQUEST FOR VISA INFO.

COOPER

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, AVIATION AGREEMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 mar 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE081637
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: WARILEY:JG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780138-0645
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978037/aaaaafvz.tel
Line Count: 80
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3f116ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN EB
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BAGHDAD 614
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3335879
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CIVAIR: IRAQ AIR FLIGHTS TO US
TAGS: EAIR, IZ, US
To: BAGHDAD
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3f116ec7-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014